

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13
EB-08 NRC-05 OES-06 FEAE-00 ERDA-05 /102 W
-----252037Z 040592 /44

R 251840Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9125
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCUSNAVEUR
USCINCEUR
CINCLANTFLT
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02407

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MNUC, FR
SUBJ: NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP (NPW) VISITS TO FRANCE

REFS: A. STATE 312221 DTG 282324Z DEC 76 NOTAL.
B. PARIS 27808 DTG 221900Z SEP 76.

1. EMBOFF ON JANUARY 25 PROVIDED ESSENCE OF US POSITION (REF A) ON NPW VISITS TO PHILIPPE LOUET, COUNSELOR IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS, WHO HAS PRIMARY ACTION RESPONSIBILITY ON NPW ISSUE. DELAY IN PRESENTATION OF US POSITION SINCE RECEIPT REF A WAS CAUSED BY LOUET'S ABSENCE ON VACATION AND ILLNESS. WE HAD INFORMED QUAI POLITICAL
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DIRECTOR DE LABOULAYE UPON RECEIPT OF REF A THAT WE HAD POSITION. HE (AND SUBSEQUENTLY OTHER QUAI OFFICIALS) RECOMMENDED THAT WE AWAIT LOUET'S RETURN FOR DETAILED DISCUSSION AS HE WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBLE ACTION OFFICER.

2. EMBOFF OUTLINED SUBSTANCE OF REF A, LEAVING COPIES

OF HIS KING POINTS WITH LOUET (COPIES TO BE
POUCHED PM/NPO). EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THAT CONDITION 3
OF FRENCH PAPER (REF B) WHICH APPEARS TO REQUEST THE
USG TO "RECOGNIZE THE COMPETENCE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF PARIS TO RULE ON COMPENSATION SUITS" COULD CREATE
SERIOUS PROBLEM IF IT MEANS THAT USG MUST AGREE IN
ADVANCE TO WAIVE ITS SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY. LOUET TOOK
NOTE OF THAT POINT AND SAID HE COULD APPRECIATE BASIS
OF US CONCERN.

3. EMBOFF REQUESTED CLARIFICATION OF THE WORD
"INSURANCE" IN THE SECOND CONDITION OF THE FRENCH PAPER
AND THE SENTENCE "IN PRACTICE, SUIT MAY BE BROUGHT
AGAINST THE INSURANCE COMPANY." LOUET RESPONDED
THAT HE PERSONALLY AGREED WITH US POINT THAT "INSUR-
ANCE" IS NOT RELEVANT IN THE CONTEXT OF WARSHIPS.
HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT GOF ITSELF DOES NOT CARRY
INSURANCE ON ITS WARSHIPS OR FOR THAT MATTER ANY OTHER
GOVERNMENT-OWNED CIVILIAN OR MILITARY VEHICLES OR
EQUIPMENT. THUS HE PERSONALLY AGREES THAT THE COMMON
PRACTICE, CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW, IS THAT
WARSHIPS ARE NOT INSURED REGARDLESS OF THE TYPE OF
PROPULSION. LOUET CONTINUED THAT HE PLANS TO EXPLORE
THIS IN DETAIL WITH QUAI AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
LEGAL DEPARTMENTS FROM WHICH THIS POINT EMANATED.

4. LOUET COMMENTED OVERALL THAT HE FELT THAT THE US
HAD MOVED CLOSER TO THE FRENCH POSITION. HOWEVER,
HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE ANY OFFICIAL RESPONSE
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AT THIS TIME. HE WILL INITIATE A REVIEW WITHIN THE
MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE SO THAT THE
GOF WILL BE IN A POSITION TO RESPOND TO THE US POINTS
IN THE HOPE OF CONTINUING A DIALOGUE WHICH CAN LEAD
TO RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE. HE CONCLUDED BY STATING
THAT IT IS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE IS GENERAL
AGREEMENT AT POLITICAL LEVELS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERN-
MENTS THAT US NPW VISITSTO FRANCE ARE DESIRABLE.
HOWEVER, IT REMAINS FOR THE TECHNICIANS TO ACHIEVE A
SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WHICH WILL NOT REQUIRE ANY
CHANGE IN FRENCH LAW WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED
TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. LOUET SAID THAT IT WAS HIS
PERSONAL OPINION THAT BY CONTINUING AN EXCHANGE OF
VIEWS WITH THE US A RESOLUTION CAN BE ACHIEVED.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D770027-0381
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 236c9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: MARR, MNUC, FR, US, (LOUET, PHILIPPE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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